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I do not know whether it is customary for surgeons to have a nurse for assistant, but I am assistant here, and a doctor from Columbus also has a nurse assistant, both having another doctor for the anæsthetic. M. M., Ohio.

SUGGESTIVE

DEAR EDITOR: Enclosed you will find fifty dollars to cover the expense of twenty-five subscriptions for the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING. I will ask to have these subscriptions begin with the November JOURNAL if possible.

Our senior classes hereafter will make the JOURNAL a text-book for class readings and class discussions, and I hope that by the time they are ready to leave the school they will have formed such a "Journal habit" that they will be unable to get along without it.

The Sisters all remember with pleasure your visit to Mercy Hospital and hope that you will find it convenient to come and see us if you are in Chicago again. Needless to tell you that we all enjoy the magazine and look forward to its monthly visit. With best wishes for your success, I am,

Sincerely yours,

SISTER M. VERONICA,
Superintendent of Nurses.

JOURNAL COMMENTS

DEAR EDITOR: A short time ago I received my first subscribed copy of the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING and have read it from cover to cover.

The International Council and Congress in London must have been an inspiration.

I am nursing on an island where one finds sanitary difficulties similar to those Isabel McIsaac mentions in her "Household Hygiene," and as I am practically housekeeper as well as nurse, I find myself spending about a third of my time fighting these conditions outside the sickroom. Would that every intelligent person on the island might read and appreciate that article.

"A Plea for the Profession of Private Nursing" deserves attention and thought. The suggestions seem plausible and excellent.

Concerning the printing of answers to examination questions, may I add my plea to the list. Although a comparatively recent graduate and desirous of "keeping abreast of the times," I find that as experience increases I have little time or inclination for real study and research. It necessitates the having at hand of any number of text-books. The printing of answers would enable one to "brush up" on half a dozen questions during a leisure ten minutes.

I was interested and somewhat amused on reading "Trans-Missouri's" letter in the October issue. Evidently our sister has not taken into consideration the fact that all nurses are not gentlewomen.

I call myself a Bostonian and only last winter I made the acquaintance of a nurse of average ability, though not a graduate of my own school, who appeared to be in her element when chewing gum, and whose conversation was punctuated with slang. Some nurses do not look upon the profession as seriously as others. I feel that there is hope for the nurse "across the aisle." Perhaps at some future time she will come in touch with nurses of "Trans-Missouri's" type who will influence her to "act the better part." Personally, I believe in the highest ideals, the most faithful service.

VIA NANTUCKETT.

PRESERVATION OF JOURNAL ARTICLES

DEAR EDITOR: I cannot carry all my JOURNALS about with me, or even preserve them, so I have taken a number of large envelopes and labelled them typhoid fever, tuberculosis, gynaecology, etc. Into its own envelope I slip any article that I find of especial practical value and which may help me some day while at work. One or all of these envelopes can be carried easily in a suit case and will be at hand to offer valuable help in time of need. L. B., R.N.

A REPLY

DEAR EDITOR: I would like to answer the two parts of the first question on "Hospital Policies" in the October number. From the standpoint of right I believe it to be perfectly right for a trained nurse, who is competent to do so, to act as a surgeon's only assistant at a major operation. The responsibility is with the surgeon and not his assistant, and if the surgeon is satisfied with the ability of a trained nurse to be his assistant that is sufficient. According to the best information I can get I find that it is becoming more and more the custom among surgeons to employ trained nurses as surgeons' assistants. One of the leaders along this line was Dr. W. J. Mayo who employed Sister Mary Joseph as his assistant for twenty years. I consider that work as surgeon's assistant to be a great field for competent trained nurses. I have been acting as a surgeon's only assistant for more than a year. The same questions are involved concerning the trained nurse as an anaesthetist and many are successful in that position. M. S. STEVENSON.

THE GUILD OF ST. BARNABAS

I.

DEAR EDITOR: The Charleston branch of The Guild of St. Barnabas for Nurses wishes to enter an emphatic protest against the substance of an article published in the October issue of your JOURNAL, criticizing adversely the chaplain of this branch, the Rev. Louis G. Wood. The said article represents our chaplain as implying that the Guild has been the means of revolutionizing the social status of the nurses, and as making the statement that "ten years ago nurses were social outcasts."

At the May meeting of the Charleston branch to which, we presume, the "Recent Member" alludes, a letter was read from the chaplain-general, questioning the branch as to the means of increasing an interest in the work of the Guild. This letter brought forth a lively discussion on the discouraging phases of our work and finally to a motion from an active member of the Guild that this branch be disbanded. On this motion Mr. Wood made a most eloquent appeal for the continuance of the work, setting forth the religious and social opportunities which the Guild affords to nurses who are placed by their work in strange cities and far from home ties.

To us it seems inconceivable that any one present should have misconstrued his statements to mean anything derogatory to the nurses or to the profession of nursing; his sole purpose being to sift thoroughly certain discouraging features of our local work and to find a remedy therefor.

The Guild of St. Barnabas (which surely could have no other object than the welfare of the nurses) was established in Charleston by Mr. Wood, and he has, through the six years of its existence, proved his loyal and continued